



PROCEEDINGS
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THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *HYLA TRISERIATA* WIED
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The original description of this chorus frog (currently known as *Pseudacris nigrita triseriata*) occurs in the classic work of Maximilian Prinz zu Wied (1839, 1:249). The type locality has customarily been recorded as Mt. Vernon, Ohio River, Indiana. This is situated in Posey County, in the extreme southwestern corner of the state. I am not aware of any particular discussion of the type locality except that by Smith and Smith (1952: 176): "The exact spot visited by Wied . . . could not be determined from his narrative. Since he traveled by boat the type specimen, presumably, was collected in the Ohio River bottom-lands."

There is considerably more, however, to be said on the subject. In the original work (1839: 217) the author writes of leaving New Harmony (on the Wabash River, about a dozen miles north of Mt. Vernon) by horseback early in the morning on March 16, 1833, traveling overland, crossing Rush Creek and Big Creek, and reaching Mt. Vernon by mid-day. Meanwhile,

"In the woodland pools and little sloughs of the recesses between the hills we heard the trilling of a small greenish-gray hylid, which does not seem to occur in Pennsylvania. As soon as one approached the pools, the little animals betook themselves into the mud and roiled the water. If one withdrew, their united voices were audible at quite a distance." (Translated from the original German.)

These remarks are introduced between the crossings of Rush Creek and Big Creek. The detailed description, with proposal of the name *Hyla triseriata*, follows on pages 249-250. In a much later publication (1865: 118) Maximilian states that the species was found first in the woodland pools and sloughs near New Harmony, later at Mt. Vernon on the Ohio, and on the Mississippi. The voice was heard by 9 a.m. The specimens were subsequently lost; consequently no type is extant.

The above quotations from Maximilian's narrative seem to furnish sufficient grounds for restricting the type locality to the area between Rush Creek and Big Creek, along the route from New Harmony to Mt. Vernon, in Posey County, Indiana (New Harmony quadrangle, 1903, U. S. Geol. Survey).

The advantage of such a course becomes apparant from the following remarks by Smith and Smith (1952: 176), who wrote under the impression that Mt. Vernon is the proper type locality:

OCT 31 1955

"Six topotypes [from Mt. Vernon] collected by us are intergrades [between *feriarum* and *triseriata*] but show closer affinities to *feriarum*. . . .

"A much more adequate sample (36 specimens) was obtained four miles south of New Harmony (still in Posey County but out of the river valley) and this consists of definite intergrades which do approach *triseriata* more closely than *feriarum* in the character of leg length and dorsal pattern."

Thus, by restricting the type locality to the near vicinity of New Harmony, we may avoid all the nomenclatural confusion that would result from relegating *Helocaetes feriarum* Baird (1854) to the synonymy of *Hyla triseriata* Wied (1839) and at the same time applying some different name to the subspecies that has long been known as *triseriata*. *Pseudacris nigrita feriarum* (Baird) may therefore remain as the name of the more eastern subspecies, ranging, according to Smith and Smith (1952: 174, fig. 2), from New Jersey and Pennsylvania southwestward to Texas.

Since Rush Creek is approximately 4 miles south of New Harmony, the 36 specimens mentioned above (Smith and Smith, 1952: 176) may be regarded as virtual topotypes of *triseriata*.

LITERATURE CITED

- Smith, Philip W., and Dorothy M. Smith, 1952. The relationship of the chorus frogs, *Pseudacris nigrita feriarum* and *Pseudacris n. triseriata*. *Am. Midland Naturalist* 48(1): 165-180, 1 pl., 1 fig., 1 map.
- Wied, Maximilian Prinz zu, 1839. *Reise in das innere Nord-America in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834*. Vol. 1. Coblenz: xvi+653+[1], 20 pl., 33 fig.
- , 1865. *Verzeichniss der Reptilien, welche auf einer Reise im nördlichen America beobachtet wurden*. Dresden: viii+141+[2], 7 pl.